



News Release

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HECTOR RAMIREZ APPOINTED CHAIR OF FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA STATE COMMISSION
Para Los Niños Vice President to lead efforts for state's children and families

SACRAMENTO – First 5 California announced today that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Hector Ramirez as Chair of the First 5 California Commission, which funds a variety of programs to improve the lives of children ages 0 to 5 and their families. Ramirez replaces previous Chair Rob Reiner on the seven-member commission.

“Mr. Ramirez comes to us with an impressive background and dedication to children's issues,” said Kris Perry, Executive Director of First 5 California. “He has been a pioneer for early childhood development, education and healthcare. The Commission and the children of California will benefit from such an experienced and highly-qualified individual.” Reiner stepped down after serving as Chair of the commission since its formation in 1999.

“Rob Reiner has dedicated himself toward improving the lives of young children and their families in California for many years,” Perry said. “It was his vision that helped create the First 5 Commission and tens of thousands of children have benefited as a result. Under his leadership and guidance, First 5 California has provided a variety of early education, health and other services to more than three million children and parents annually. We greatly appreciate his service. At the same time, we look forward to working with Mr. Ramirez to continue our efforts on behalf of California's youngest children and their families.”

Ramirez currently serves as the co-interim, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Para Los Niños, a nationally accredited community-based family services agency servicing the Los Angeles area. Over the past eight years, Ramirez has brought administrative and fiscal oversight to the agency's child development, family resource and mental health programs, which service more than 2,500 children a day and 4,000 families a year. He previously worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, and the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). Ramirez holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from California State University, at Long Beach and is a graduate of the Harvard University, Performance Measurement for Effective Non-Profit Organizations Program (PMNO).

About First 5 California

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, childcare and other programs for expectant parents and children up to age 5. For more information please visit <http://www.cafc.ca.gov>.

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